



# Hands on Habitat

## State of Connecticut

### What Are the Problems?

- **Coastal wetlands** Thirty percent of wetlands have been lost due to urban dredging, filling, and development. Many are degraded due to impacts from tidal restrictions, ditching, excess nutrients, marsh plain subsidence, and invasive plant species..
- **Fish passage** More than 4,000 dams have contributed to population declines in diadromous fish species
- **Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds** Long Island Sound has lost up to 65% of SAV habitat, and eelgrass is now limited to Connecticut's easternmost shoreline.
- **Native shellfish** Historic populations have been lost to poor water quality, disease, and sedimentation (covering/ smothering bottom habitat).

### Background

Connecticut's coastline is home to a variety of coastal habitats that support a diversity of fish and wildlife, contribute to the area's biological integrity, and help support the state's economy.

### What We Do

- Restore tidal wetlands
- Remove barriers and modify culverts
- Construct fishways to restore fish runs
- Eradicate or control invasive plants
- Restore submerged aquatic vegetation
- Restore native shellfish populations with seed releases and habitat rehabilitation
- Educate communities about the value of healthy habitat and restoration

### How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships among Connecticut's public, private, and non-profit organizations.



Our projects continually demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of locally-based habitat conservation in Connecticut.

### Our Accomplishments

Since 1999, we have:

- Awarded more than \$1 million and leveraged more than \$2.6 million
- Funded 42 projects
- Completed 22 projects
- Restored 465 acres
- Opened more than 55 stream miles
- Engaged roughly 89 volunteers for more than 2,200 service hours through partner-led activities

### Our Partners

NOAA works with 68 local, private, and public partners in Connecticut, including the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Restore America's Estuaries, Save the Sound, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, FishAmerica Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and Ocean Trust.

## Our Focus

**Reverse man-made impacts on coastal habitats, water quality, and migratory fish passage**

### Contact

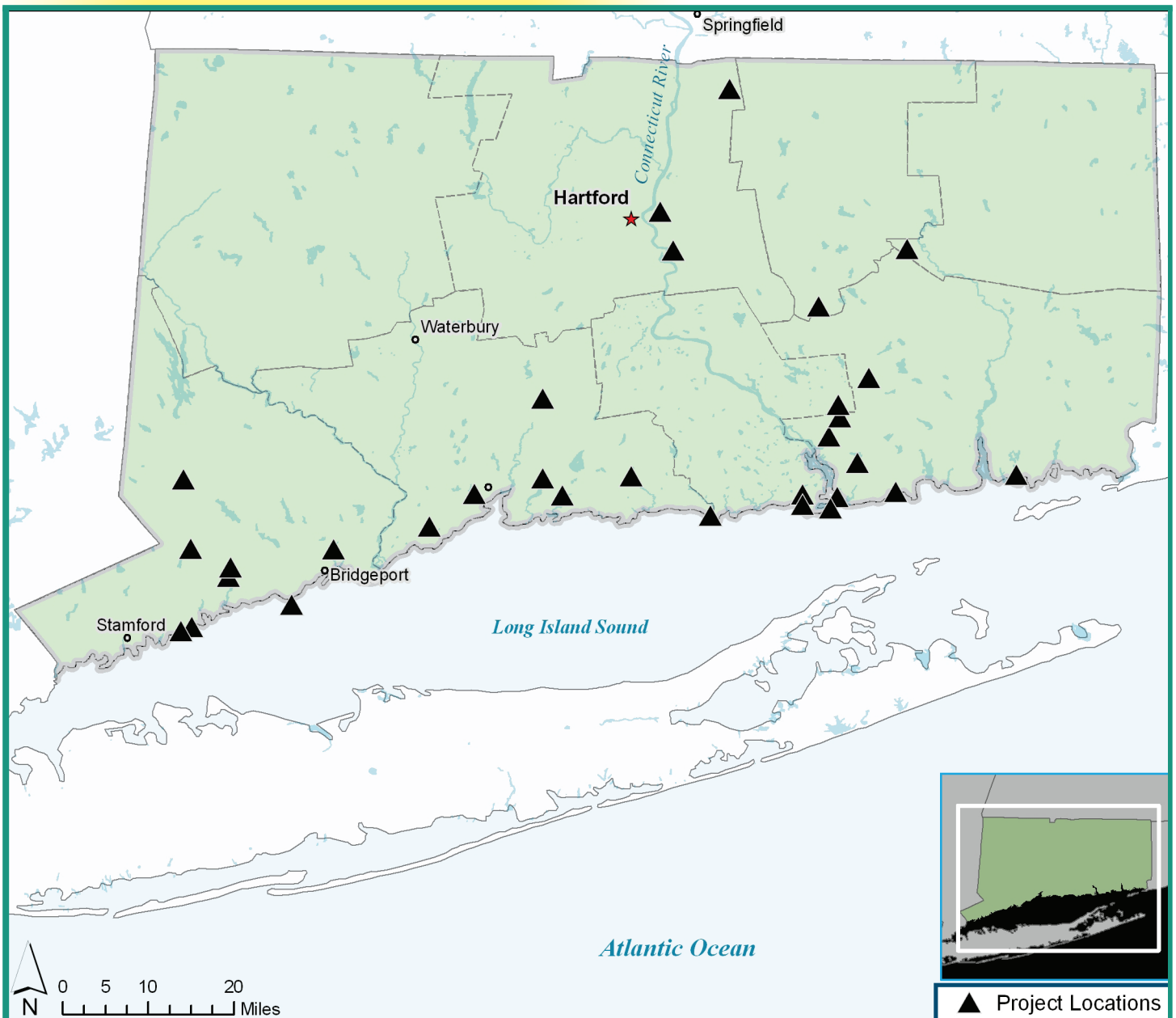
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[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration)

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# NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

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## SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

**Bluff Point Coastal Reserve  
Marsh Restoration, Groton**

**Branford Supply Ponds Dam  
Fishway, New Haven**

**Brides Brook Marsh and Fish  
Passage Restoration, New  
London**

**Clark Pond Fishway  
Rehabilitation, New Haven**  
**Connecticut River Water**

**Chestnut Control, East  
Hartford**

**Ed Bill's Pond Fishway, New  
London**

**Great Island Phragmites  
Removal, New London**

**Guilford Lakes Fishway  
Project, New Haven**

**Ingham Hill Pond Fishway,  
Middlesex**

**Lee's Pond Dam Fishway  
Rehabilitation, Fairfield**

**Lynde Point Marsh Restoration,  
Middlesex**

**Oyster River Shellfish  
Restoration, Middlesex**

**Wilson Cove Marsh  
Restoration, Norwalk**

**Zemko Dam Fish Passage  
Restoration, Salem**